

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2c
January 5, 2012

Work Session

RIDE

Thursday, November 17, 2011

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), Carolina Bernal, Robert Carothers,
Karin Forbes, Betsy Shimberg

Regent Lorne Adrain joined at 11:45 a.m.

Absent: Patrick Guida, Colleen Callahan, Mat Santos

The meeting convened at 11:35 a.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and acknowledged that the meeting was a session of the Board of Regents duly noticed and he asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Bernal, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner's Remarks

Waiver Request for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

The current law (NCLB) set forth a goal of 100% of students being proficient by 2014.

It treats all schools alike, regardless of whether they miss one target or many.

It measures schools solely by a snapshot of performance in time as opposed to growth, and has very prescriptive methods for intervention; these are some of the concerns that we have had about the legislation over the last few years.

RIDE is very pleased that the President and Secretary announced the waivers, and we have notified the USDOE that R.I. intends to apply for a waiver in February 2012.

RIDE intends to look at ways to ensure that its accountability system is strengthened rather than retreating from it by being more precise about it in terms of identification, looking at measures of growth, closing gaps between different groups of students, and reconsidering the way intervention happens and what the accountability system looks like.

Over the next two months, RIDE will work closely with the Board of Regents and will engage in community outreach with many stakeholders, including representatives of teachers, parents, community leaders, and students, to get input and feedback that will help RIDE develop and refine its request for flexibility.

R.I. Safe Schools Act – Statewide anti-bullying policy

This past July, the RI General Assembly approved The Safe School Act, which directed RIDE to develop statewide anti-bullying policies around:

- Bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation;
- Clear procedures for students, staff, parents, guardians, and others to report bullying;
- Procedures for how to respond and investigate reports of bullying.

RIDE will be sharing a draft copy of these administrative regulations with the BOR prior to posting it for public comment.

Achievement First Charter Public Schools

Achievement First has submitted a new application for two Providence-based charter public schools, one to open in 2013 and a second to open in 2014. Achievement First's catchment area will include Providence, North Providence, Cranston, and Warwick. RIDE will be hosting public hearings on December 7th and 8th. Commissioner Gist remains very enthusiastic about the application and the potential of establishing Achievement First schools in R.I. and having students benefit from the impressive work that she, Governor Chafee, and Chairman Caruolo saw when they recently visited the Achievement First Academy in Connecticut. She hopes to bring the plan, all the information about the schools, and RIDE's review and feedback from public comment to the BOR at its January 5th meeting and to ask for a vote at the January 19th BOR meeting.

Recovery High School Act

This past July, the RI General Assembly passed The Recovery High School Act that directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a pilot recovery high school. This school will serve students diagnosed with substance-abuse disorder or dependency and provides them with a four-year high-school education and a structured plan for recovery. The school, which will begin operating in August or September 2012, will be operated by a currently licensed entity. At the end of the pilot, it will be analyzed to look at performance and determine whether to proceed with it or not. RIDE has released an RFP, for which responses are due on December 1st. Once the review team analyzes the applications and makes its selection recommendation to the Commissioner, she will bring it to the BOR for approval.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

Discussion Items:

Career and Technical Education:

Commissioner Gist shared a copy of the summary of public comment and feedback that RIDE received from the four public hearings that were held over the last month, including written comments that were collected between October 6th and November 10th. Although the comment period does not end until November 29th, she felt the BOR ought to have the information that had been collected thus far, given that the Board does not meet in the month of December.

Andrea Castañeda, Chief of the Division of Accelerating School Performance, walked the BOR through a chart summarizing the feedback from public comment and answered questions on the changes that were made to the original proposal, which was voted out for public hearings. The changes include areas that required more effort around clarification of language and precision of language in making the regulations more clear.

She next walked through a PowerPoint presentation on the bold categories and the major themes that RIDE heard comment on:

- Access – the clusters – the single biggest topic heard – the role of federal career clusters;
- Admissions;
- Regions;
- Funding;
- Transportation; and
- Evaluation and Standards

Due to other agenda items needing discussion, Chairman Caruolo suggested bringing the CTE regulations back to the table at a future Work Session, but he was reminded that due to the financial implications around the LEAs' budget-creation and the deadline for submission to their own town councils, the regulations would have to be approved at the January 5th

BOR meeting or soon thereafter. With that in mind, it was suggested that RIDE share the latest draft of the regulations with the most recent modifications with the BOR prior to the January 5th meeting.

BOR Bylaws – Amendments

Clark Greene, RIDE’s Chief of Staff, went over the two major proposed amendments to the current BOR bylaws, which are in Regents’ regulations (Series A) and are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act. The current plan is to request that the BOR approve the draft at its January 5th BOR meeting to go out for public comment, and request final approval at the March 5th BOR meeting.

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education convene in executive session to discuss litigation on the Portsmouth School Committee, et al v. NEA Portsmouth/NEARI/NEA, R.I. State Labor Relations Board, et al pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (2)
	Vote:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

The Board of Regents went into recess to convene an executive session at 1:10 p.m. to discuss litigation on the Portsmouth School Committee, et al v. NEA Portsmouth/ NEARI/NEA, Rhode Island State Labor Relations Board, et al pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (2).

The Board of Regents returned to public session at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Caruolo reported that no votes were taken in executive session and that the minutes were sealed.

On a motion duly made by Regent Bernal and seconded by Regent Guida it was

VOTED:	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.
	Vote:	6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.